

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SPARKS

P.O. BOX 342768 MEMPHIS, TN 38184-2768 / VOL.11 / NOVEMBER 2009



Visit our home on the web at: <http://www.deltaclub.org>

W4BS
REPEATER
SYSTEM
146.82, 147.36,
224.42, & 443.2

NOVEMBER 2009 CLUB MEETING

DATE: November 10, 2009

PLACE: Ellendale Church Of Christ, 7365 Highway 70,
Memphis, Tn. (1.5 miles east of Hwy. 64-Stage Rd.)

TIME: 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: 2010 Board of Directors Election

VE TESTING: Don't forget the monthly Volunteer Examiner testing session. Registration begins at 5:30 P.M. and testing begins promptly at 6:00 P.M. Please remember to bring **two forms of identification** and **copies of any existing licenses or CSCE's** you might have. The ARRL VEC exam examination fee is \$15. Please be on time for registration, as you will not be allowed to enter the testing session after 6:00 p.m. This is to allow our volunteer VE team to finish in time to attend the club meeting. For more VE testing information contact...

Tom Fox, KA4LWQ, VEC
Phone: 901-357-1633
E-mail: ka4lwq@comcast.net

Please Remember: Deadline for Reports and Articles for the next issue of SPARKS is the last day of the month prior to the meeting. All articles **MUST** be in to me by the deadline in order to be published in the next issue. Please forward all articles and items of interest to:

KI4AJH@bellsouth.net

Presidents Corner

Well, this is the time to consider who you want on the club's board. The election is coming and I would like to thank the nominating committee for their hard work and the nominees for accepting their nominations. The meeting will be the big drawing. Carry your checkbook or extra money for a chance to purchase more tickets.

December 5 will be a very busy day for many of us. There is the St. Jude Marathon and the Bartlett Christmas Parade. We need more volunteers who are willing to invest some time in either or both of these events. If you have volunteered, I want to say thanks for stepping up. Both of these are fun events. This is good practice for emergency communications.

Speaking of Emergency Communications, I would like to remind everyone that the most important thing any of us can do is to listen. Do not transmit unless there is information that you can provide that was specifically requested by the Net Control Station. During a weather watch net the squelch tail or courtesy tone will be a morse code W, or a short tone with two long tones (. _ _).

The club meeting should be very interesting and I hope that we all can make it. I look forward to seeing you there.

73,
de
Hugh, WB4SLI

2010 Public Events Coordinators

Please look at the Public Events on page 7. If you volunteered to coordinate one of the events this year and would like to coordinate the event next year please send an email to me at ki4ajh@bellsouth.net letting me know. If you have 2010 date information that you would like to have updated on the website and in the newsletter also let me know that. If you did not coordinate an event this year and would like to take the lead on one of the events now would be the time to speak up and let me know. Supporting community events by providing communications is one of the things that Delta club does to educate the community about amateur radio and how the hobby can benefit the community.

73's
Roger KI4AJH

VE Liaison's Corner

The Delta Amateur Radio Club will test for new licenses and upgrades on November 10, 2009. Testing will begin promptly at 5:30 P.M. The club will entertain the submitting of new candidates to be considered for election on this night. All VE's will be attending at 7.00 promptly. We will not accept applicants after 6.00 P.M. so please be on time. There will be no testing in the month of December due to the club Christmas Party.

TOM FOX KA4LWQ, VE Liaison

DARC CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR October 6, 2009

Attendee's

Hugh – WB4SLI
Richard – NF5B
Steve – KI4YOP
Wayne – KI4TLB
Alan – KJ4BIX
David – KD4NOQ
Rick – WA4NVM

Hugh called the meeting to order at 7:05PM

Hugh – WB4SLI gave the treasurers report in the absence of Bill – KI4TQA which was accepted by the Board.

Rick – WA4NVM reported on the progress of the nominating committee. There were general discussions.

There were open discussions regarding upcoming events which would require additional operators. Also held were discussions on the Clubs upcoming meeting events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

Note: I had to leave the meeting rather early so please accept my apologies for the shortness of these minutes and to anyone I may not have listed in the attendee's list.

Respectfully submitted by Steve – KI4YOP

Swap Shop on the Website

Just wanted to let you know that the swap shop page on the web has been re-enabled. You can find it at http://www.deltaclub.org/swap_shop.html. If you have anything that you would like to list on the page send me an email at KI4AJH@bellsouth.net. Items listed on the page will be listed for 60 days or when notified they have been sold whichever comes first.

I hope this will be helpful for those of you trying to move some gear.

73's
Roger

DARC Club Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2009

Hugh – WB4SLI called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and asked for introductions of the attending 45 members and guest.

Hugh asks that the minutes of the August meeting be read. Jeff – AJ4GY made a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed in Sparks and the motion was seconded by Lance - N4GMT. Club attendance accepted.

Bill – KI4TQA gave the club treasurers report. Ham - W4GMM made a motion to accept and was seconded by Richard – NF5B. Club attendance accepted.

Dennis – KJ4BDU announced that he needs operators for the annual Bartlett Christmas Parade this year. All operators interested in helping out should contact Dennis.

Roger – KI4AJH is still short operators for the St. Jude Marathon. Please contact Roger if you can help out with this.

David – KD4NOQ presented a great program on various antenna's.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted By:
Steve Smith – KI4YOP

Richard's Hex Beam is UP!

On Friday, Oct. 23rd, Richard's antenna was finally installed. It has been a long time coming, due to various things like weather, tree pruning, tower construction and other things that don't come immediately to mind. I want to thank the following hams for all their effort and continued support: Bob - KF4NDH, Jeff - AF4GY, Richard - KJ4DXF, Bill - KI4TQA, Joe - WA4OVO, Lance - N4GMT, and Roger - KI4AJH. Thank you all for the camaraderie, while completing this project. My thanks also to Richard and Kathleen for their patient understanding.

73

Ray N4ARH

NF5B Antenna Update

Folks, it looks like we've completed the major work out here at the nf5b/kc0hzu qth. I've still got to figure a way to mount a 2 meter yagi stationary pointed at Memphis (will happen eventually) and a 40 meter dipole, but the major construction work is complete.

Thanks to the following individuals for their assistance in different phases of this major project:
n4arh for his steel fabrication and technical advice and assistance. kf4ndh, kj4dx and aj4gy for helping with tower base.ki4ajh; n4gmt and ki4tqa for all the hard work.

Appreciate all your efforts guys. Thanks a bunch! I'm sure there are some missionaries and skippers that will appreciate it too.

73 de nf5b

2009 Public Service Events

Historically Delta has been providing support for ten events annually which means we need ten people to step up and volunteer to be the coordinator for those events. The good news is that we already have eight of the events covered. Look at the table below to see a list of events and the coordinators that have already volunteered to cover those events. If you see an event listed without a coordinator and you are interested in becoming the coordinator for that event let Roger KI4AJH@bellsouth.net know. If the weekend is listed and not the exact date it means at this time the exact date isn't know but historically it has been held on that weekend. Each of us that have volunteered to coordinate an event will certainly give it up if you had your heart set on being the coordinator for that event, Just let us know. If you volunteer to coordinate an event I will help you by sending out a mass email to the Sparks distribution list to help you get volunteers to help with the event. I will not however coordinate the event for you. When I send out the email I will be directing them to contact you directly via email or phone, whichever you want.

Date	Event	Coordinator	Website
January 18th	Swamp Stompers	Eddie KF4QFW	http://memphisultra.blogspot.com/2008/01/swamp-stomper-2008.html
March Cancelled for 2009	City Slickers Equestrian Event	Richard NF5B	http://www.midsouthhorsereview.com/articles/2007/05/12/news/news05.txt
TBA	Boy Scout Merit Badge University	Hugh WB4SLI	
April Delta not Coordinating	MS Walk		http://tns.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=TNS_homepage
25th	March for Babies AKA March of Dimes Walk	Bob KF4NDH	http://www.marchforbabies.org/
May 17th	Memphis in May Triathlon	Ned KA4BLL	http://www.mimtri.racesonline.com/
September 12th & 13th	MS 150 Bike Ride	Darrell KK4D	http://biketns.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE_TNS_homepage
October 3rd	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk	Kathleen KC0HZU	http://walk.jdrf.org/
December 5th	St. Jude Marathon	Roger KI4AJH	http://www.stjudemarathon.org
5th	Bartlett Christmas Parade	Dennis KJ4BDU	http://tn-bartlett.civicplus.com/index.asp?NID=629

AMATEUR PACKET UPDATE

One of the bands we do not normally think about is the 6 meter band. During low sunspot activity it is all but dead. However during high points of the sunspot cycle it can provide world wide communications with very low power. Every ham band has its own unique characteristics and the 6 meter band is no exception. The ARRL has come out with a book just for the 6 meter band. It is called the "6 Meter Handbook" by Don Field G3XTT. The book contains chapters on equipment and antenna. It also talks about propagation characteristics of the 6 meter band. It also has useful information on portable and DX operations. If you are planning on getting on 6 meters during the next sunspot cycle this book can be a good source of information about operating on this band. You can order the book for about \$25.00 on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Sometimes we have gear that needs to be repaired. Older radios were available factory built or as a kit. Heathkit radios are on the used market and are collectable and functional. They are only as good however as the person that built them. They are also getting older and may need a little work to get them going. I got a call from Bill WA4IQL about a Heathkit HW-8 he had. He had been working on the rig and had problems getting it up and running. I got the rig to see what I could do with it. The rig soldering from the original builder was not the best. Bill had cleaned up several solder shorts and replaced several parts that he had found that were bad. It is unusual to find an HW-8 needing this much work. I believe power was applied to the radio in the reverse polarity which caused component problems. Luckily I had the full factory diagram and manual for the rig. I also have my VOM, dummy load, another radio to listen in on, and my oscilloscope for troubleshooting the rig. Bill did a great job replacing parts and cleaning up the traces on the PC board. Bill had to run wire in some places where the traces were burned off the PC board. By using the scope I was able to find a few more bad components keeping the radio in the transmit mode all the time. The crystal could not be turned on some bands as some of the selection diodes were also bad. Once I got a few more parts changed out and the radio started to receive signals. I could now work on the transmitter as it was bad also. The transmitter now does about 1.8 watts and the receiver works and is very sensitive. I also added a few modifications to the radio like reverse polarity protection diode, lighted meter, and the S-meter mod to allow the meter to function as an S-meter on receive. The one thing I learned again was to fix a radio you have to have the documentation and wiring diagram and enough test equipment on hand. This helped me work on my troubleshooting skills fixing radios. Some would have called this one a "basket" case but a little TLC and it is ready to be on the air again for years to come.

James Butler
KB4LJV



TENNESSEE NETS

Net Name	Freq.	UTC	Day
Tennessee CW Net	3563	0100	Su-Sa
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3682	0130	T-Su
Tennessee Early Morn Phone Net	3980	1145	M-F
Tennessee Morning Phone Net	3980	1245	M-F
Tennessee Morning Phone Net	3980	1400	Sa-Su
Tennessee Evening Phone Net	3980	0030	T-Su
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	3810	As needed	
CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7180	As needed	

**MedMERS moved East
(submitted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO)**

The MedMERS net has changed primary frequency is the 146.73 repeater with a 107.2 tone which gives good handheld coverage in east Memphis. The net is on Wednesdays at 12 noon CT. The repeater is at St. Francis Hospital on Park Avenue.

The secondary frequency is the 147.360, +600kHz, 107.2 tone on Methodist North.

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
October 2009 Treasurers Report**

Beginning Balance	as of October 1, 2009	\$10,830.97
Expenses		
Memphis Amateur	Prizes	\$195.96
University of Memphis	Phone	\$22.94
AT&T	Phone	\$60.15
Total Expense		\$279.05
SubTotal		\$10,551.92
Income		
Membership Dues		\$7.50
Ticket Sales		\$172.00
Joe Lowenthal	Extra from Huntsville Trip	\$100.00
Total Income		\$279.50
Ending Balance	as of November 1, 2009	\$10,831.42

Submitted by Bill Stevens KI4TQA

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> Eddie KF4QFW	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Delta Club Meeting (2nd Tuesday) Edward KC4ZON	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Stephen KI4EBV Jerry KI4TKZ
<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Rick WA4NVM Nina WB4CHH	<i>19</i> MARA Club Meeting (3rd Thursday)	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> James KG4YKZ
<i>22</i> Jacob KD5NUH	<i>23</i> Stan AC4CQ Chuck W4VAC	<i>24</i> ARES Meeting (4th Tuesday)	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Melissa Karen KE5MPX
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> Kenneth N4WAH Jim NI4C					

The W4BS Elmer Shack

Please feel free to contact any of our ELMERS to help you enhance your amateur skills. Anyone wishing to be added to the Elmer list please contact Ned at ka4bll@arrl.net or 363-9607.

Codes:

1. Antennas
2. APRS
3. Contesting
4. CW Operating
5. Direction Finding (fox hunting)
6. DXing
7. Experimenting/ Circuits/etc.
8. HF Phone
9. Packet
10. Repeater Operation
11. QRP
12. Satellite
13. RTTY
14. VHF
15. PSK31
16. Computer logging



K4TTA (Extra) Tom Richardson 386-6268
k4tta@arrl.net (1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15)

KA4BLL (Extra) Ned Savage 363-9607
ka4bll@arrl.net (1, 5, 8, 14, MARS, ARES/
RACES, net control, traffic handling,
emergency service)

KB4LJV (Extra) James Butler 294-2540
jbutler@bigriver.net (2, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14)

KD4NOQ (Adv) David Campbell 388-6166
kd4noq@bellsouth.net (1,2,3,5,9,10,12,14,
slow scan TV, ATV minor)

N9ACQ (Extra) Bill Kuechler 368-0532
n9acq@arrl.net (1, 8, 13)

WA2IQC (Gen) Gary Blinckmann 794-5289
realgary2@yahoo.com (1, 7, 10, 14)

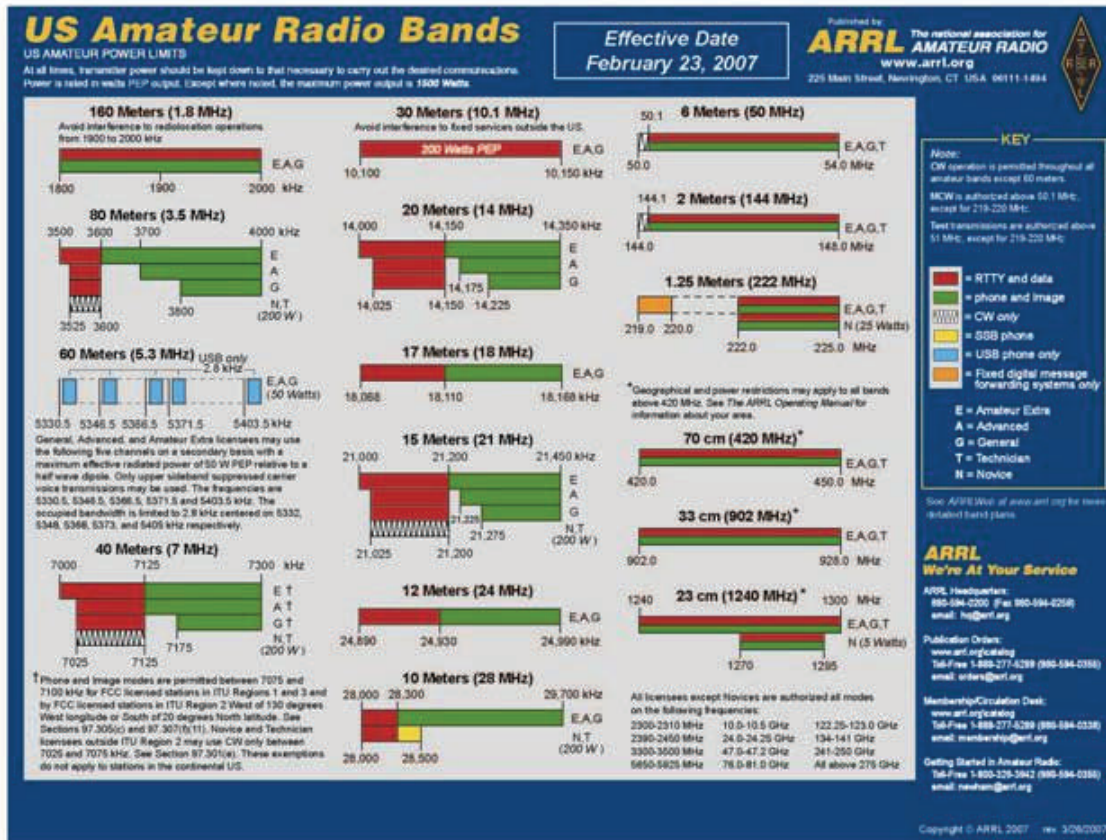
WA4MJM (Extra) Bill Hancock 853-7192
billwa4mjm@aol.com (1, 2, 8, emergency
communications, ARES, MARS)

K4DIT (Extra) Ken Gregg 853-7384
kgregg@c-a-c.com (4, 6, 8, 11, 15)

W4GMM (Extra) Ham Hilliard 372-2337
hamh@bellsouth.net (All categories)

Frequency Changes as of February 23, 2007

Here is the link for the frequency chart effective 2/23/07 in color:
http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands_color.pdf



Here it is for the black and white version:

http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hambands_bw.pdf

Information on News, Contests, Special Events, and Hamfests Can All Be Found At:

<http://www.arrl.org/search/bigindex.html>

Delta Club 146.82 Net Preamble

GOOD EVENING: This is _____ calling this session of the DELTA CLUB'S TRAFFIC AND INFORMATION NET. This net is affiliated with the ARRL and the NTS and is organized to pass traffic in and out of the mid - south area, in addition to providing information about club events and amateur related topics. This net meets nightly at 8:00 p.m. CT except the second Tuesday of the month on the 146.82 W4BS repeater and may require a pl. tone of 107.2 Hz.

All stations will refrain from transmitting without being acknowledged by net control. All licensed amateurs are encouraged to participate.

Before we begin, is there any station with emergency or priority traffic? (Take immediately) During this net should any station have emergency or priority traffic please use a double break followed by your call sign.

Is there an NTS Liaison station on frequency?

Is there any station wishing to list formal written traffic?

Does any station have announcements for the net?

(Eliminate the following sentence unless there are announcements.)

Does any station have any questions or need any fills?

We will now take check-ins. Are there any stations that are mobile, on battery power, or needing to leave early, if so please come now phonetically with your suffix only and please remember to spread them out?

We will now take check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins ALPHA through HOTEL please come now and remember to spread them out.

We now will take check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins INDIA through QUEBEC please come now and remember to spread them out?

We will now take check-ins phonetically by suffix only if your suffix begins ROMEO through ZULU please come now and remember to spread them out.

The DELTA CLUB meets the second Tuesday of each month at the ELLENDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST 7365 HWY 70 in Bartlett at 7:00 P.M. V. E. Registration begins at 5:30 with testing starting promptly at 6:00. A copy of your license and CSCE is required. For V. E. Information contact Tom Fox, KA4LWQ at 357-1663 . For membership information contact Steve Smith KI4YOP at 493-8663. For training class information contact Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO at 683-2701..

We will now take late check-ins from anywhere in the alphabet ALPHA through ZULU please come now and spread them out by waiting for the courtesy tone.

Is there anything that this station or the net can do for anyone before we close?

This is _____ now closing this session of the DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S Traffic and information net and would like to thank all _____ stations for checking in tonight. And would like to ask that everyone to check in tomorrow night at the same time. GOODNIGHT AND 73: THE NET IS NOW CLOSED. _____ CLEAR

AREA HAMFESTS OF INTEREST

Evansville Hamfest
November 28, 2009
Evansville, IN

Net Alternate Control Operators Needed

We are still looking for alternate net controllers. The net is a big part of our Delta Club activities and also serves as training for NCO's to help out in case of a disaster. Please consider serving in this excellent and enjoyable activity. You may contact me at n4gmt@comcast.net

Lance R Morris
N4GMT

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and is emailed to club members and other interested parties. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the Delta Amateur Radio Club and its officers assume no liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

**Delta Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38184-2768**

2009 Board of Directors

President

Hugh Wardlaw, WB4SLI
901-487-3820 (hwardlaw@bellsouth.net)

-

Vice President

Richard Webb
901-465-9921(elspider@bellsouth.net)

-

Secretary

Steve Smith
901-493-8663 (ki4yop@gmail.com)

-

Treasurer

Bill Stevens, KI4TQA
901-603-3448 (KI4TQA@bellsouth.net)

-

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO
901-683-2701 (WA4OVO@yahoo.com)

-

Director of Publications

Roger Schlichter, KI4AJH
901-386-8457 (KI4AJH@bellsouth.net)

-

Director of Programs

Alan Anderson, KJ4BIX
901-581-1220 (KJ4BIX@arrl.net)

-

Director of Hospitality

Wayne Monte, KI4TLB
901-377-5132, wjmonte@comcast.net

-

Repeater Trustee

Darrell Sheffield, KK4D
901-277-8122(Darrell.Sheffield@Memphistn.gov)